Salt, Excise and Customs.

40. Salt.—The total quantity of salt consumed during the year was 8,80,540 maunds, against 8,65,408 maunds in the previous year. The gross salt revenue amounted to Rs. 9,82,568 and the expenditure to Rs. 20,772. The net revenue was Rs. 9,61,796, against Rs. 11,81,530 in the previous year. The fall in the revenue was due to the reduction of the duty, from Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ to one rupee per maund, having had full effect during the year.

41. Excise.—Under the head of Excise are included Abkari, Tobacco, Opium and Ganja. No material changes of system were introduced in any of these branches of revenue during the year. The total excise revenue was Rs. 22,11,876 and the expenditure Rs. 1,94,245, thus leaving a net revenue of Rs. 20,17,631, as against a net revenue of Rs. 19,70,231 in the year previous.

42. Customs.—The export duty on plumbago was abolished. The 5 per cent export duty on unsalted fish was cancelled and a uniform duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent calculated on a tariff valuation of Rs. 3 per cwt., was ordered to be levied on fish of *all* kinds, salted or unsalted, raw or dry. Prawn skin was brought on the tariff list. The gross customs revenue amounted to Rs. 10,80,942 and the expenditure to Rs. 41,946. The net revenue was Rs. 10,38,996, against Rs. 7,83,742 in 1082, showing an increase of Rs. 2,55,254. The increase in the revenue was due chiefly to the facts that the enhanced tariff valuation of copra, cocoanut oil and cocoanuts and the new duty on oil cake, all ordered in 1082, were in force throughout the year under review.

Medical Relief.

43. The Medical department.—The number of the superior grade men in the department (Surgeons, Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Schedule A) rose from 31 to 33. The numbers in the lower grades remained the same. Exclusive of special institutions, *viz.*, the Leper Asylum, the Lunatic Asylum and the Jail hospitals, 20 Sirkar hospitals and 24 dispensaries were maintained during the year. A new dispensary was opened at Padinayarkulangara in the Karunagapally taluk. The number of in-patients in all the Government institutions (general and special) rose from 18,536 to 18,807 and that of out-patients fell from 6,59,560 to 6,23,356, the decrease in out-patients being attributed to the improvement in public health throughout the State. 28,310 surgical operations were performed during the year. 33 midwives were at work, and they attended 2,072 cases of labour, against 1,559 in the previous year. The eleven pupil midwives who were undergoing training in the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Quilon, were examined during the year, and all of them passed.

44. Grants-in-aid.—The number of medical institutions receiving grants-in-aid from Government remained the same as in the previous year, *i. e.* 10. The sick treated in them fell from 84,506 to 82,370.

45. Vaidyasalas.—The number of Vaidyasalas was 66, and 1,43,756 persons were treated in them.

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